

## THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

from the Annamites and for the opium monopoly. The various motives of this widespread revolt were as tangled and confused as the mountainous brushland through which the French were fighting. Putting down banditry in the interest of general security was an obvious military duty, but to stamp out a national movement went strongly against the republican fibre.

Bert's policy as educator and conserver of Annamite traditions was not more congenial role, and one in keeping with the principles of '89 as well as his belief in France's colonizing mission. He was the first organizer of Indo-Chinese education, with the double aim of training men to replace interpreters and of spreading among the people a working knowledge of French. Replacing the Hue mandarins in Tonkin was his greatest administrative problem, since it was almost impossible to find men who were both trained and loyal. To this end he founded the Tonkinese Academy. In the meantime he had to use the old mandarinate, but he made them as harmless as possible by cutting all their ties with Hue. A Council of Tonkinese Notables was another of the republican ideas which Bert introduced into the government, to the universal disapproval of his colleagues. It was part of his programme to do away with intermediaries between the government and the people, but he died before this idea was carried out. Like so much of his work, it had to wait years before his successors actively appreciated his wisdom and foresight.

In the financial realm, Bert's pioneering was far less effective. He was hampered by the knowledge that at all costs he must not call on 'Paris for money. Any public works that he might undertake must

ome from new resources within the colony itself.  
 Although he strictly  
 egulated forced labour, and wiped the slate clean of  
 arrears in back  
 ixes, yet transmutation of taxes into money payments  
 was a burden  
 n an already miserable population. In the long run,  
 however, although  
 be **dykes** and hospitals which he constructed proved  
 to be a wise  
 ivestment, his work in the economic field was sketchy  
 and in no way  
 safely resolved the problem. It was left to Doumer to  
 put the colony  
 -somewhat brutally—on a paying basis, and to make it  
 permanently  
 idependent of the M&ropole's reluctant subsidies. It  
 was chiefly in  
 is native policy that Bat was most revolutionary. He  
 laid the foimda-  
 QO5 for associationist principles, which Ms premature  
 death **unfor-**  
 matdy left in aa embryonic condition.

Through a policy of stupid violence,, Beit's numerous  
 and dhocht-  
 successors prolonged the revolt in Aanam-Tonkin,  
 wMcfa bad